

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 were pending. The Applicants have amended claims 10 and 21 and cancelled claims 11 and 12, leaving claims 1-10 and 13-24 for the Examiner's consideration. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has allowed claims 1-9 and 22-24. The Examiner has also objected to claim 12 as being dependent on a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

I. Rejection of claims 10, 11, and 13-21

The Examiner has objected to claim 12 as being dependent on a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. In response, the Applicants have amended claim 10 to include all of the limitations of objected claim 12 and intervening claim 11. As independent claim 10 is now identical in scope to objected claim 12, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 is patentable and in condition for allowance.

Additionally, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13-21 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on patentable independent claim 10. The Applicants have amended claim 21 for consistency with amended claim 10.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

The Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned if he believes a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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